

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

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Monday, February 23, 2004

News from Congressman Ehlers ...

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004

On Monday, the House will not be in session.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (3 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.R. 2707 - Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act:**
Directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, acting through the U.S. Forest Service, to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on forests and public lands administered by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.
- 2) **H.R. 2696 - Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2003:**
Establishes institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West.
- 3) **S. 714 - To provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey without cost to Douglas County, Oregon, all right, title, and interest to 68.8 acres of property currently under the management of the Bureau of Land Management. Douglas County would then be permitted to use the land, located just south of the Umpqua River in Winchester Bay, for recreational purposes.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AND 26, 2004

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m.

Suspensions (3 bills):

- 1) **H.Res. 519 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003:** Resolves that the House of Representatives is saddened by the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003, and sends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families and recognizes and honors those local officials, public safety and law enforcement personnel, and individuals, who in private or public capacity provided assistance to the victims of the earthquake and their families, and commends this dedicated service to the

residents of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties and the State of California.

- 2) **H.Con.Res. 287 - Recognizing and honoring the life of the late Raul Julia, his dedication to ending world hunger, and his great contributions to the Latino community and the performing arts.**
- 3) **H.R. 3690 - Barber Conable Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Batavia, N.Y.*)

H.R. 2751 - GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003: Expands the management flexibilities that the GAO already has. This legislation gives the Comptroller General more authority to reward employees for good work and establishes a meaningful pay-for-performance system. It also makes permanent the GAO's authority to offer early retirement and buyouts, expands its ability to reimburse employees for relocation expenses, permits the Comptroller General to increase the annual leave benefits for employees who join the GAO in mid-career, and establishes an exchange program with the private sector. It also changes the name of the organization from the "General Accounting Office" to the "Government Accountability Office," a more realistic title based on the agency's mission.

H.R. 1997 - Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2003: Fills gaps in federal law by providing that if an unborn child is injured or killed during the commission of crimes of violence already defined under federal law, prosecutors can bring two charges: one on behalf of the mother, the other on behalf of the unborn victim. In H.R. 1997, an unborn victim is described as "a member of the species *homo sapiens*, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb." This bill protects the right of a mother to choose to bring her child to term, safe from the violent hands of criminals who would brutally deny her that right. H.R. 1997 explicitly excludes abortion-related conduct.

*** Possible Motions to go to Conference**

*** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On Feb. 23 ...

1861 - U.S. President-elect Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take his office after an assassination attempt in Baltimore.

1904 - The U.S. acquired control of the Panama Canal Zone for \$10 million.

1927 - The Federal Radio Commission began assigning frequencies, hours of operation and power allocations for radio broadcasters. On July 1, 1934 the name was changed to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

1945 - The 28th Regiment of the Fifth Marine Division of the U.S. Marines reached the top of Mount Surabachi. A photograph of these Marines raising the American flag was taken.

1963 - The 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. It prohibited poll taxes in federal elections.

On Feb. 24 ...

1803 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled itself to be the final interpreter of all constitutional issues.

1868 - The U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson due to his attempt to dismiss Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. The U.S. Senate later acquitted Johnson.

1903 - In Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an area was leased to the U.S. for a naval base.

1983 - A U.S. congressional commission released a report that condemned the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

On Feb. 25 ...

1793 - The department heads of the U.S. government met with U.S. President Washington for the first Cabinet meeting on U.S. record.

1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. It authorized a graduated income tax.

1928 - The Federal Radio Commission issued the first U.S. television license to Charles Jenkins Laboratories in Washington, D.C.

On Feb. 26 ...

1863 - U.S. President Lincoln signed the National Currency Act.

1907 - The U.S. Congress raised their own pay to \$7500.

1919 - In Arizona, the Grand Canyon was established as a National Park with an act of the U.S. Congress.

1951 - The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting U.S. presidents to two terms.

On Feb. 27 ...

1801 - The city of Washington, D.C., was placed under congressional jurisdiction.

1922 - The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the 19th Amendment that guaranteed women the right to vote.

1939 - The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed sit-down strikes.

1986 - The U.S. Senate approved the telecast of its debates on a trial basis.

1991 - U.S. President George Bush announced live on television that "Kuwait is liberated."

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)